Essay Assignment - My English Learning Experience

TESOL (144th, WD)

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I’ve been studying English on and off since I was in high school. Back then, I started studying English not for getting good grade on tests but for just fun. Since I didn’t have much desire to get a good grade on English test, I’d usually study English by watching American TV shows and movies. In addition to that, I was also privileged enough to have some friends whose nationality is America. I’d hang out with them every weekend and we’d normally spend time together at Itaewon where you can meet a lot of native English speakers. My ability to listen and speak English has gradually been improved. However, that also means reading and writing in English was another issue and I kept failing an English test because it is more important to be able to read and write than to listen and speak. At the time, I decided to challenge myself to ace the TOEIC, which is the biggest and the most common English test in Korea.

I first had to figure out how to study as effectively as possible all by myself. I’d usually study by myself, I’ve never thought any English School in Korea is not worth the money because I didn’t think the teaching style of Korean teachers was not really suitable for me. When I was in high school, they just taught me to memorize all the vocabularies, idioms and grammar rules and I did exactly what they told me to without fully understanding it. It seems almost every student in Korea is relatively not good at speaking and listening English because of the educational environment in Korea. I finally got a good grade on TOEIC after studying by myself for about ten months. I started to feeling that I really wanted to study English more. So, right after graduating from college, I decided to go to Canada to pursue my journey of learning English.

Studying abroad was a whole new different experience. I had to start from the beginning since the way they teach is totally different from Korea. We needed to solve some grammatical errors together by discussing it and explained it to the teacher. Everything was kind of self-centered learning. I spent most of my time figuring out the roots of the answers not just memorizing it.

The atmosphere of the class rooms was also quite different. All students have every right to express their opinion and nobody would correct or judge his or her answers and teachers also listen all of their students’ suggestions and always try to give fast feedback. I also got to know so many good students whose purpose was same as mine. They gave me such a positive energy. Being exposed to these circumstances helped me to learn English much faster.

Although studying abroad for only six months was not enough, I learned and experienced a lot and realized that I really love learning other languages. I know I’m still not good enough but I strongly believe my journey of learning second language has been successful so far. I now just keep doing it at my own pace because that’s what I love to do and want to do for my future.